Repayment of loan by NHAI

*420. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAY be pleased to state:

(a) the total toll and money collected by NHAI during the year 2004-05;

(b) the interest paid by NHAI in 2004-05 on loans taken;

(c) the loans repaid by NHAI in 2004-05;

(d) the steps NHAI propose to take to ensure better utilisation of loans; and

(e) the steps proposed by NHAI to build roads, economically?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The total toll money (user's charges) collected by the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) during 2004-05 is Rs. 452,58,96,327/-.

(b) Interest paid by NHAI in 2004-05 on loan taken are as under:

(i) **Asian Development Bank Direct loan by NHAI**—Interest during construction amounting to Rs. 14.02 crore have been shown as part of the loan and have been capitalized under the respective projects.

(ii) **Loan from Government against External Assistance**—Interest on Government loan amounting to Rs. 123.81 crore paid during 2004-05 to the Government of India.

(iii) Capital Gain Taz Exemption Bonds u/s 54EC of Income Tax Act 1961-Interest amounting to Rs. 469.95 crore was paid to the Bond Holders during the year 2004-05.

(c) During 2004-05, NHAI has repaid a sum of Rs. 71.08 crore in respect of loan from Government against External Assistance. Besides, repayment of an amount of Rs. 784.64 crore was made for Capital Gain Tax Exemption Bonds.

(d) The loan proceeds from multilateral agencies are being utilized effectively for implementation of Externally Aided Projects which is also being monitored by the funding agencies. The proceeds from 54EC Bonds are being utilized to meet the gap between the funds approved by the Government and the expenditure requirement of projects being implemented by NHAI.

(e) The following steps are taken by NHAI to build road economically:

i. The contracts are awarded on competitive bidding process.

ii. The lenght of highways in contract packages is such that the package is viable and economical.

iii. The Detailed Project Reports are prepared by reputed consultants.

iv. The latest technology is being used.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Setting up of a Coal Videsh Ltd.

2879. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has decided to move ahead with plan to allow Coal India Ltd. to set up a new subsidiary company Coal Videsh Ltd. for acquiring coal blocks abroad;

(b) if so, whether Ministry of Finance had objected to this proposal and suggested that Coal India itself should do the acquisition;

(c) whether the Union Cabinet has given its approval to the proposal; and

(d) if so, by when a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) to (d) CIL Board has sent a proposal to form a new wholly owned subsidiary company of CIL with the name, Coal Videsh, for venturing into coal business opportunities abroad considering the widening demand-supply gap and the amount of coal imported into India. No final decision has been taken in the matter.

E-auction leading to fall in coal prices

†2880. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the price of coal is continuously decreasing after the implementation of e-auction system for sale of coal;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.